

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A sterilization bag characterized in that side edges and lower ends of a gas-permeable material and a synthetic resin film are adhered with an opening remaining in an upper end thereof and further comprising

a damage prevention means that prevents damage of at least one selected from the gas-permeable material, ~~the synthetic resin film~~ and an adhered portion of the gas-permeable material and the synthetic resin film by catching or receiving the tips of stored articles in the lower end portion of the sterilization bag or vicinity thereof,

wherein the damage prevention means is a protective component disposed in the inner surface of only the lower end portion of the sterilization bag or the vicinity thereof, the upper end of the protective component being fixed to at least the gas permeable material, and the damage prevention means prevents the damage by catching the tip of stored articles.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the protective component is a filmy protective component.

9. (Original) The sterilization bag of claim 8, wherein the protective component is formed by extending and folding the synthetic resin film.
10. (Previously Presented) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the protective component is a bag component formed by mountain folding a third synthetic resin film.
11. (Previously Presented) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the protective component is made of a material having gas permeability.
12. (Previously Presented) The sterilization bag of claim 1, wherein the sterilization bag is used for sterilizing one or two or more kinds of medical instruments selected from the group consisting of scalpels, tweezers, forceps and scissors.